

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **BANA Sponsors Open Forum and Holds Spring Meeting**

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) will hold its spring meeting in Burlingame, California, from March 15-17, 2009. This meeting is being hosted by the California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH), a BANA member organization, and overlaps with their annual conference.

A centerpiece of the two and a half day meeting will be the Open Forum, which BANA holds during each of its semiannual meetings.

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 2:45-4:15 PM  
BANA Open Forum -- Tell it to BANA!

Location:  
San Francisco Airport Marriott  
1800 Old Bayshore Hwy  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650-692-9100

Judith Dixon, BANA Chair, and the other members of the Braille Authority of North America are extending an invitation to this forum because we want to hear from braille readers (of all ages) and from educators, transcribers, proofreaders, and parents regarding their thoughts about braille. There will be plenty of opportunity for participants to learn more about how BANA functions and about current BANA projects. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions and voice your opinions on braille by attending this Open Forum. To reserve your spot at the Forum and to help ensure accurate counts for handouts, contact Sue Reilly at 619-725-5651 or e-mail [sreilly@sandi.net](mailto:sreilly@sandi.net) no later than Monday, March 9. If you are already attending the CTEVH conference, select session 805 to attend the Forum.

The spring meeting of the Braille Authority of North America will be held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott hotel. BANA sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, and end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17th. A highlight of this meeting will be the presentation of the first ever *BANA Braille Excellence Award* to Dr. Abraham Nemeth; the award will be presented at the CTEVH brunch on Sunday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Guests are welcome to attend the BANA meetings and observe the deliberations. Space is limited, so to reserve a seat, please contact BANA Chair Judith Dixon to register your desire to observe any or all of the BANA sessions.

The mission and purpose of the Braille Authority of North America are to assure literacy for tactile readers through the standardization of braille and/or tactile graphics. BANA promotes and facilitates the use, teaching and production of braille. It publishes rules, interprets and renders opinions pertaining to braille in all existing codes. It deals with codes now in existence or to be developed in the future, in collaboration with other countries using English braille. In exercising its function and authority, BANA considers the effects of its decisions on other existing braille codes and formats; the ease of production by various methods; and acceptability to readers.

For additional resource information, visit [www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org).